

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated May 19, 2005, claims 1-6 were pending. In this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been amended. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended in response to the Examiner's objection to those claims. Claims 1, 5 and 6, as well as claim 2, have also been amended to delete reference numerals.

Claim Objections.

Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been objected to because of informalities. In response, Applicants have amended those claims in a manner suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-5 have been amended under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford; and Claim 6 has been amended under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isobe et al. and Stapleford.

In the statement of the rejection, the Examiner asserted that the applied combination of Isobe et al. and Yamaguchi et al. teaches all the limitations recited in independent claims 1 and 5, and the combination of Isobe et al. and Stapleford teaches all the limitations recited in independent claim 6. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* basis to deny patentability to the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §103 for lack of the requisite factual basis. To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).

Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford, either individually or in combination, would not have suggested each and every limitation of claims 1, 5 and 6.

The Examiner asserted that Isobe et al. teaches a printing system comprising: a plurality of unit controllers (Fig. 16; and column 19, lines 19-33); and a controller totally managing said plurality of unit controllers (Fig. 16, lines 17-24), wherein said controller has command means commanding a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data shared between the plurality of unit controllers, said plurality of separate plate data being created by separating digital data of objective printed matter into a plurality of color components (col. 20, lines 28-34), and each of said plurality of unit controllers has separate plate data creation means creating separate plate data.

However, it is submitted that Isobe et al. fails to teach, among other things, that a process of creating a plurality of separate plate data is shared between a plurality of unit controllers, as recited in claims 1, 5 and 6. The Examiner's cited portion in Isobe et al. discloses as follows:

The print controller 208K receives image data from a memory 209K and sends the received image data to an LED head 152 in response to the instruction from the controller 201 so as to control the time for which the LED head illuminates the photosensitive drum 154 to form an electrostatic latent image. The print controllers 208Y, 208M and 208C are for controlling the thermal head 36 of the second printing mechanism P2 and receives image data from the memories 209Y, 209M and 209C, respectively. The print controllers 208Y, 208M and 208C send these images to the thermal head 36 in response to the instructions from the controller 201 so as to control the time for which the thermal head 36 is energized, thereby fusing or sublimating the ink on the ink film ribbon 176 to print a color image on the print-medium 26. Col. 19, lines 18-36.

The above portion does not teach "creation" of separate plate data.

The other portion cited by the Examiner from Isobe et al. also discloses as follows:

Upon receiving image data from an external apparatus such as host computer, the controller 201 sends instructions to interface 210 and the memories 209Y, 209M, 209C, and 209K, respectively. In response to the instruction, the interface 210 separates the image data according to color and sends image data of the respective

colors into corresponding memories. That is, the memories 209Y, 209M, 209C, and 209K store yellow image data, magenta image data, cyan image data, and black image data, respectively. The image data stored in each memory is for one page of the print-medium 26. Col. 20, lines 28-38.

The above portion also fails to teach “creation” of separate plate data.

Isobe et al. merely teaches that image data sent from a host computer has already been rasterized and the received image data is further sent from the controller 201 and the interface 210 (the image data sent for example from the controller 201 has already been rasterized), and that the interface 210 separates this received image data according to color and sends image data of the respective colors to corresponding unit controllers to cause a printing mechanism to perform printing controlled by each unit controller.

Thus, Isobe et al. does not teach that creation of separate plate data is shared between a plurality of unit controllers.

Applicant further submits that Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford does not teach that creation of separate plate data is shared between a plurality of unit controllers. Even if it is assumed that Stapleford teaches separation technique using a controller and sub-controllers for the sake of this response, the reference fails to specifically teach that creation of separate plate data is shared between a plurality of unit controllers. Thus, even if it is assumed for the purpose of this response the controller 201 and the interface 210 in Isobe et al. could be replaced by the controller and the sub-controllers of Stapleford, such modification does not arrive at the claimed invention.

Accordingly, consideration of the teachings of Isobe et al., Yamaguchi et al. and Stapleford, either individually or in combination, would not have suggested each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 5 and 6. In the instant case, the pending rejection has not established *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention as recited in claims 1, 5 and 6,

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because the proposed combination fails to teach all the claim limitations within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103. Dependent claims 2-4 are also patentably distinguishable at least because they include all the limitations recited in independent claim 1. Applicant, therefore, solicits withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103, and favorable consideration thereof.

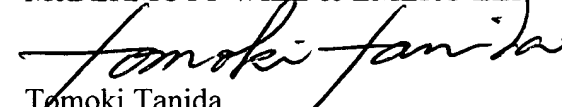
Conclusion.

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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